

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SKETCHES  
OF  
LEGISLATORS

AND  
STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

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BY JOHN CARDWELL.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS:  
DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN STEAM PRINT.  
1876.

## SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

*Counties.*—Waller, Fort Bend and Wharton.

SENATOR WALTER M. BURTON.—The subject of this sketch is a colored man. He was born in North Carolina, August 9, 1840; came to Texas a slave eighteen years ago, and has lived since then in Fort Bend county. He is a married man, is thirty-eight years old, and is engaged in farming. He is possessed of a good mind, and maintains the respect of all classes in his community. He is spoken of as generous and feeling in his nature, and deserves the kindest consideration, when it can be stated, that since his emancipation he has voluntarily maintained an aged and destitute lady in North Carolina to whom he formerly belonged.

He lives in a district where the negro element is greatly in the preponderance, and has been the recipient of much consideration at its hands. He was sheriff of Fort Bend county from 1870 to December, 1873, when he was chosen to represent his district in the Senate of the Fourteenth Legislature. In this body he was an independent voter, though his seat was next to that of Hon. Web. Flanagan. Politically he is a Republican. He was the late Republican candidate for the State Senatorship in the Seventeenth Senatorial District, and was elected by about 1200 majority. He is a very quiet member of the Senate, but votes the straight party vote whenever the Republican interest may be subserved.